**IN THE CLAIMS**

*Please amend the claims as follows:*

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) [[The]] A thermoelectric material having an average crystal particle size of at most 50 nm and having a relative density of at least 85 %~~according to claim 1~~, wherein

said thermoelectric material comprises a composition of at least one of Fe, Zn, Co, Mg, Mn, Zr and Ni and at least one of Si, O, Sb and Sn, or a mixture of at least two of said compositions.

10. (Currently amended) [[The]] A thermoelectric material ~~according to claim 1,~~ having an average crystal particle size of at most 50 nm and having a relative density of at least 85%, wherein

said thermoelectric material comprises a composition of at least one of Fe, Zn, Mg, Mn, Zr and Ni and at least one of Si, O, Sb and Sn, or a mixture of at least two of said ~~composition~~compositions.

11. (Previously presented) The thermoelectric material according to claim 10, wherein impurity elements have a detected intensity of at most one-fifth of a maximum detected intensity of an element among constituent elements of said thermoelectric material, as determined by EDS analysis of a grain boundary portion of said thermoelectric material.

12. (Previously presented) The thermoelectric material according to claim 10, wherein said thermoelectric material has an electrical resistivity of at most 1 x $10^{-3}\Omega m$.

13. (Previously presented) The thermoelectric material according to claim 10, wherein said thermoelectric material has a thermal conductivity of at most 5 W/mK.

14. (Previously presented) The thermoelectric material according to claim 10, wherein said thermoelectric material has a thermal conductivity of at most 1 W/mK.

15. (Previously presented) A method of manufacturing the thermoelectric material according to claim 10, comprising the steps of:

preparing a fine powder having an average particle size of at most 50 nm; and

sintering or compacting said fine powder under a pressure of at least 1.0 GPa and at most 10 GPa.

16. (Previously presented) The method of manufacturing a thermoelectric material according to claim 15, further comprising the step of annealing polycrystalline body resultant from said sintering or compacting step.

17. (Previously presented) The method of manufacturing a thermoelectric material according to claim 15, wherein said fine powder is fabricated by a gas atomizing method or ball milling.